Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A nucleic acid molecule comprising first and second domains, said first domain being capable of forming a first specific binding pair with a target sequence of a target RNA species, said second domain consisting of a sequence which forms a second specific binding pair with at least one RNA processing or translation factor.

2. (original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said first domain of said nucleic acid molecule attaches to said target sequence of said RNA target species by means of complementary base pairing.

3. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said second domain forms a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing or translation factor selected from the group consisting of: RNA molecules, RNA structural molecules, RNA stability molecules, RNA-protein complexes, splicing factors, polyadenylation factors, transcription factors, and translation factors, and combinations thereof.

4. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said second domain forms a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing factor which is any RNA, RNA-protein complex or protein that stimulates splicing activity.

5. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said second domain forms a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing factor selected from the group consisting of: SR proteins, SR-related proteins, hnRNP proteins, STAR proteins and CELF proteins.

6. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein said second domain forms a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing factor selected from the UsnRNP group of RNA splicing factors.

7. (original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 6, wherein said second domain forms a second specific binding pair with U1, U2 or U6 snRNP.

8. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 or 2~~, wherein said second domain forms a second specific binding pair with an RNA translation factor selected from an initiation factor, such as eIF4G and eIF3, or a ribosomal component.

9. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein formation of the first specific binding pair and the second specific binding pair recruits the RNA processing or translation factor to an RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species to effect RNA processing or translation at said RNA processing or translation site.

10. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ wherein the first domain is capable of forming a first specific binding pair with the target sequence on the RNA target species within 1,000 nucleotides of an RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species.

11. (original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 wherein the first domain is capable of forming a first specific binding pair with the target sequence on the RNA target species within 100 nucleotides of an RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species.

12. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9 ~~any of claims 9 to 11~~, wherein the RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species is selected from an RNA splicing site, a cryptic RNA splicing site, a polyadenylation site and a translation initiation site.

13. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9 ~~any of claims 9 to 12~~ wherein the RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species is mutated.

14. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9 ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~ wherein a further site on the target RNA species is mutated, wherein the further site contributes to a protein or RNA-protein assembly required for processing or translation at the RNA processing or translation site.

15. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises at least one modified nucleotide.

16. (original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 15, wherein said at least one modified nucleotide is chemically modified to enhance stability or uptake by a cell.

17. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein said at least one modified nucleotide is selected from the group consisting of a 2'-*O*-methyl derivative of RNA, a phosphothiorate modification, a morpholino modification, a phosphoroamidate modification, a peptide nucleic acid derivative of RNA, and a linked nucleic acid derivative of RNA.

18. (currently amended) A polynucleotide that encodes the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~.

19. (original) A vector that comprises the polynucleotide of claim 18.

20. (original) A host cell or stable cell line that comprises the vector of claim 19.

21. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~, or the polynucleotide of

claim 18, or the vector of claim 19, and a pharmaceutially acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, or in a pharmaceutically acceptable delivery system.

22. (canceled)

23. (original) A method of recruiting an RNA processing or translation factor to a target RNA species, the method comprising:

providing a nucleic acid molecule having a first domain capable of forming a first specific binding pair with a target sequence on the target RNA species, and a second domain capable of forming a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing or translation factor, and

contacting the nucleic acid molecule with the target RNA species and with the RNA processing or translation factor.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 23 ~~any of claims 23 to 25~~ wherein formation of the first specific binding pair and the second specific binding pair recruits the RNA processing or translation factor to an RNA processing or translation site on the target RNA species to effect RNA processing or translation at said RNA processing or translation site.

27. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 23 ~~any of claims 23 to 26~~ wherein the target sequence is within 1,000 nucleotides of an RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species.

28. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 27 wherein the target sequence is within 100 nucleotides of an RNA processing or translation site on the RNA target species.

29. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 23 ~~any of claims 23 to 28~~ wherein the RNA processing or translation factor is selected from the group consisting of: RNA molecules, RNA-protein complexes, RNA structural molecules, RNA stability molecules, splicing factors, polyadenylation factors, transcription factors, and translation factors, and combinations thereof.

30. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 23 ~~any of claims 23 to 29~~ for increasing the level of splicing at a specific splice site on a target RNA species, wherein the first domain of the nucleic acid molecule forms a specific binding pair with a target sequence close to the specific splice site on the RNA species, and wherein the second domain forms a specific binding pair with an RNA splicing factor.

31. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 30 wherein the specific splice site is a cryptic splice site or a mutated splice site.

32. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 ~~any of claims 23 to 29~~ for increasing the level of incorporation of a specific exon in a pre-mRNA species into a mature mRNA species, wherein the first domain of the nucleic acid molecule forms a specific binding pair with a target sequence in the specific exon of the pre-mRNA species, and wherein the second domain forms a specific binding pair with an RNA splicing factor.

33. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 30 or 32 ~~any of claims 30 to 32~~ wherein the RNA splicing factor is selected from the group consisting of: SR proteins, SR-related proteins, and hnRNP proteins, CELF proteins, STAR proteins, and any RNA, RNA-protein complex or protein that stimulates splicing activity.

34. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 ~~any of Claims 23 or 26 to 33, or a use according to claim 25,~~ which is performed in an *in vitro* cell-free system.

35. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 ~~any of Claims 23 or 26 to 33, or a use according to claim 25,~~ which is performed in an *ex vivo* cellular system.

36. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 ~~any of Claims 23 or 26 to 33, or a use according to claim 25,~~ which is performed in an *ex vivo* tissue-based system.

37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 ~~any of Claims 23 or 26 to 33~~ which is performed *in vivo* in the human or animal body.

38. (currently amended) A method of treating a condition characterised by defective or undesirable RNA splicing in an individual, the method comprising administering to the individual a nucleic acid molecule having a first domain capable of forming a specific binding pair with a target region of a defectively spliced target RNA species and having a second domain that forms a specific binding pair with an RNA splicing factor, wherein the target region of the target RNA species is sufficiently close on the RNA species to the site of defective or undesirable RNA splicing for splicing at the site to be enhanced by the action of the splicing factor.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 38 ~~or 39~~ wherein the RNA splicing factor is selected from the group consisting of: SR proteins, SR-related proteins, and hnRNP proteins, and any RNA or protein that stimulates splicing activity.

41. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 38 ~~any of claims 38 to 41~~ wherein the defective RNA splicing is caused by a mutation at the site of defective splicing.

42. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 38 ~~any of claims 38 to 41~~ wherein enhanced exonic incorporation is desirable at the site of undesirable RNA splicing.

43. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 38 ~~any of claims 38 to 42~~ wherein the condition is selected from spinal muscular atrophy, breast cancer, Becker muscular dystrophy and β-thalassaemia.

44. (original) A method of treating a condition characterised by inadequate or defective translation of an RNA species in an individual, the method comprising administering to the individual a nucleic acid molecule having a first domain capable of forming a specific binding pair with a target region of an inadequately or defective translated target RNA species and having a second domain that forms a specific binding pair with an RNA translation factor, wherein said target region of the target RNA species is sufficiently close on the RNA species to a translation initiation site for translation at the site to be enhanced by the action of the translation factor.

45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to Claim 44 ~~or 45~~ wherein the RNA translation factor is selected from the group consisting of an initiation factor such as eIF4G and eIF3 or a ribosomal component.

47. (original) A method of enhancing polyadenylation at a desired polyadenylation site on a target RNA species, the method comprising:
providing a nucleic acid molecule having a first domain that is capable of forming a first specific binding pair with a target sequence close to the desired polyadenylation site on the target RNA species, and a second domain that is capable of forming a first specific binding pair with an RNA polyadenylation factor, and
contacting the nucleic acid molecule with the target RNA species and with the RNA splicing factor.

48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to Claim 47 ~~or 48~~ wherein the RNA polyadenylation factor is cleavage and polyadenylation specificity factor (CPSF).

50. (canceled)

51. (canceled)

52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of RNA processing or translation defects caused by mutations in RNA that affect binding of RNA processing or translation factors comprising administering to a patient a nucleic acid molecule having a first domain capable of forming a specific binding pair with a target sequence of a target RNA species and having a second domain capable of forming a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing or translation factor ~~medicament made according to the method of claim 52~~.

54. (currently amended) A method of affecting RNA processing or translation in an *in vitro* system characterised in the use of a nucleic acid molecule having a first domain capable of forming a specific binding pair with a target sequence of a target RNA species and having a second domain capable of forming a second specific binding pair with an RNA processing or translation factor ~~according to any of claims 1 to 17~~.

55. (original) A method of designing a nucleic acid molecule that affects RNA processing or translation at an RNA processing or translation site on a target RNA species, the method comprising:

(a) identifying the RNA processing or translation site on the target RNA species, and

(b) designing an oligonucleotide molecule comprising:

(i) a nucleotide sequence that forms a specific binding pair with a target sequence close to the RNA processing or translation site on the target RNA species, and

(ii) a nucleotide sequence motif that forms a specific binding pair with an RNA processing or translation factor which affects processing or translation of the target RNA species at the RNA processing or translation site.

56. (original) A method according to claim 55 further comprising the prior step of selecting a target RNA species.

57. (currently amended) A method of making a nucleic acid molecule that affects RNA processing or translation at an RNA processing or translation site on a target RNA species, the method comprising designing a nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 55 ~~or 56~~ and synthesizing the nucleic acid molecule.

58. (currently amended) A method of making a nucleic acid molecule that affects RNA processing or translation at an RNA processing or translation site on a target RNA species, the method comprising designing a nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 55 ~~or 56~~ and expressing the nucleic acid molecule from a polynucleotide encoding it.

59. (currently amended) A method according to any of claims 55, 57 and 58 ~~55 to 58~~ wherein the target RNA species is transcribed from a defective or mutated disease gene.

60. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule obtainable by the method of claim 57 or 58 ~~any of claims 57 to 59~~.